

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1811

Harmon House

123 Church Lane

Cockeysville, Baltimore County

Circa 1900

Private

Constructed circa 1900, the Harmon House is representative of the few single-family dwellings remaining along the Church Lane corridor in the small community of Texas and reflects the late 19th and early 20th century history of the town of Texas as it grew from a small limestone quarry town established in the early 1800s. The dwelling, most likely inhabited by the family of a worker in the local industry, is directly related to the industrial history of the community.

The exterior fabric of the Harmon House has been completely altered since its construction and now reveals only a small amount of its original structure, including the three-bay-wide, single-pile form of the two-and-a-half-story building. The asphalt shingle-clad side gable roof now features a small, central gable and the wood frame structural system has been re-clad with vinyl siding. Additionally, the stone foundation has been parged with concrete. Two central interior rebuilt stretcher bond brick chimneys rise through the roof of the main block. A two-and-a-half-story, one-bay-deep ell extends to the south flush with the west elevation of the main block. The façade, or north elevation, has been greatly altered by the addition and enclosure of a full-width porch on a stretcher bond brick veneered foundation. This addition is capped by a half-hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles. The outer two bays of the first story project on either side of the deep, recessed central entry with one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door. Two fifteen-light fixed vinyl windows pierce each of the outer bays. Three 1/1 vinyl windows pierce the second story of the main block. A rectangular, louvered metal vent is located in the central gable peak. All façade openings feature vinyl surrounds and sills. A one-story, shed-roofed addition was constructed on the east elevation of the ell, and a wood deck was added to the second story of the ell's south elevation circa 1990.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1811

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other Harmon House

2. Location

street and number 123 Church Lane not for publication

city, town Cockeysville vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 1501 Building, Inc.

street and number 123 Church Lane, Suite A telephone Not Available

city, town Cockeysville state MD zip code 21030

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 8597 folio 693

city, town Towson tax map 51 tax parcel 240 tax ID number 0808002275

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1811

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The exterior fabric of the Harmon House has been completely altered since its circa 1900 construction and now reveals only a small amount of its original structure, including the three-bay-wide, single-pile form of the two-and-a-half-story building. The asphalt shingle-clad side gable roof now features a small, central gable and the wood frame structural system has been re-clad with vinyl siding. Additionally, the stone foundation has been parged with concrete. Two central interior rebuilt stretcher bond brick chimneys rise through the roof of the main block. A two-and-a-half-story, one-bay-deep ell extends to the south flush with the west elevation of the main block. The façade, or north elevation, has been greatly altered by the addition and enclosure of a full-width porch on a stretcher bond brick veneered foundation. This addition is capped by a half-hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles. The outer two bays of the first story project on either side of the deep, recessed central entry with one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door. Two fifteen-light fixed vinyl windows pierce each of the outer bays. Three 1/1 vinyl windows pierce the second story of the main block. A rectangular, louvered metal vent is located in the central gable peak. All façade openings feature vinyl surrounds and sills. A one-story, shed-roofed addition was constructed on the east elevation of the ell, and a wood deck was added to the second story of the ell's south elevation circa 1990.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1811

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates circa 1900

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates circa 1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Constructed circa 1900, the Harmon House is representative of the few single-family dwellings remaining along the Church Lane corridor in the small community of Texas and reflects the late 19th and early 20th century history of the town of Texas as it grew from a small limestone quarry town established in the early 1800s. The dwelling, most likely inhabited by the family of a worker in the local industry, is directly related to the industrial history of the community.

Settled as early as 1801 by John Clark, the community now known as Texas, Maryland, was originally referred to as Clark's Switch. Over the next decades, the numerous quarries and mining opportunities surrounding the area drew many people to the settlement at Clark's Switch, which was soon known as Clarksville, and then as Ellengowan.¹ Throughout the 19th century, Texas was well known as a center for limestone quarries.

The quarrying of Texas limestone for commercial investment began in 1804. The availability of this resource meant prosperity not only for local builders, but also for local farmers, for a large amount of Texas limestone was burned to produce lime for the conditioning of soil. From 1804 until 1840, the quarrying of limestone around Texas increased dramatically, resulting in a total of roughly 50 limestone kilns in operation during the last half of the 19th century. In 1877 alone, there were no fewer than 42 lime kilns in or near the center of Texas, most of which were situated along the Northern Central Railway near the town's railroad station. This latter fact is probably due to the ease with which the final product could be shipped out of Texas for distribution and sale to other parts of the county.²

By the mid-19th century, the community was officially known as Texas. Its change in name was apparently spurred by a nationalistic fervor that overtook the area during the Mexican-American War.³ The industrial

¹ The Heritage Committee of the Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., *The Limestone Valley* (Timonium, MD: The Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., 1976), p. 31.

² The Heritage Committee of the Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., *The Limestone Valley* (Timonium, MD: The Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., 1976), p. 129; see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), p. 47.

³ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850), n.p.; see also John McGrain, *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County*

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1811

Name Harmon House, 123 Church Lane, Cockeysville, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

opportunity in the town led to an increasing population in Texas. In 1881, the town's population had reached 649, nearly two and one-half times that of Cockeysville, which was located only one mile to the north. Although no employment statistics exist for this time period, it is probable that the local quarries or kilns employed the majority of the residents of Texas. With increasing interests in the quarrying of limestone and its location along the Northern Central Railway, Texas then needed to accommodate the needs of its citizens. In 1852, St. Joseph's Catholic Church was founded. To meet the educational needs of children in the town, a schoolhouse was erected prior to 1877 along Beaver Dam Road. In addition, the Baltimore County Poor House was built in 1873 just east of Texas and York Road.⁴

The residential population of Texas lived primarily along the Church Lane corridor, perpendicular to the Northern Central Railway line through the town. Even with its strong economic growth from the 1860s through the 1880s, the citizens of Texas occupied only a small geographic area around the thriving commercial center of the railroad station. Although a few of the more wealthy citizens of the town had larger, more rural properties along other improved and unimproved roads that encircled the town, the vast majority of residential structures were built at the heart of the town.⁵

By the early 20th century, the community increased its density without expanding its borders. The town continued to thrive along Church Lane. It was at this point in the history of Texas that the Harmon House was constructed along Church Lane. With increased commercial development to the north of Baltimore City in the mid- and late 20th century, however, the population and building stock of Texas has begun a decline. The removal of the grade crossing along Church Lane now prevents passage from York Road through to Beaver Dam Road, and the residential community has been effectively cut off from the surrounding area. Additionally, an increasing number of properties have been purchased and developed by quarry interests, and much of the 19th and early 20th century residential buildings have been demolished.⁶

(Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985), p. 324, and The Heritage Committee of the Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., *The Limestone Valley* (Timonium, MD: The Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., 1976), p. 31.

⁴ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 882.

⁵ *Atlas of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), p.47.

⁶ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), n.p.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1811

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory
Heritage Committee of the Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc.. *The Limestone Valley*. Timonium, MD: The Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., 1976.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
McGrain, John. *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985.
Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850..

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acres
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Cockeysville Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since circa 1900, the Harmon House has been associated with the 5,100 square feet known as tax parcel 240 of map 51 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's Office.

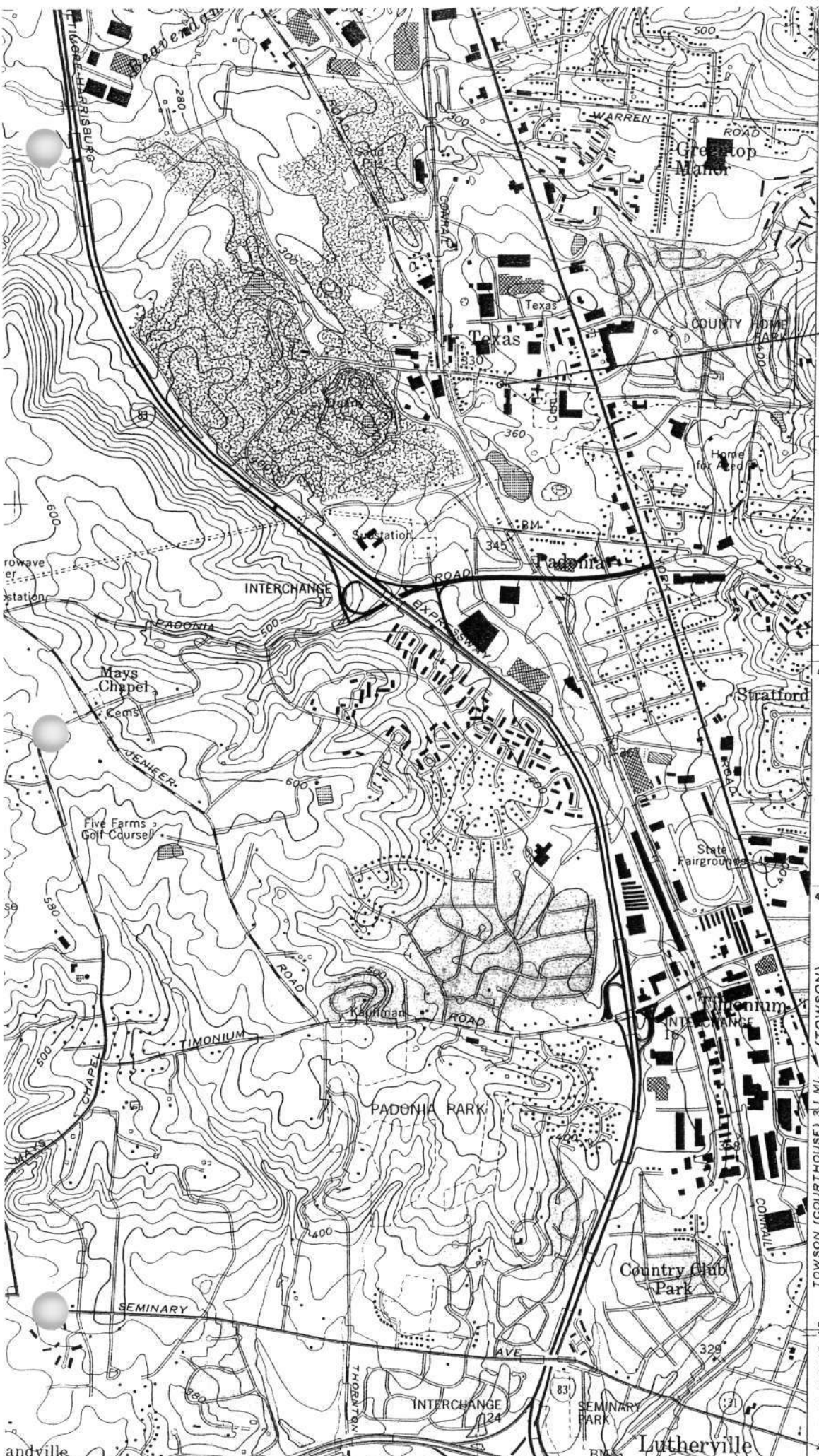
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	April 30, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



USGS Quad: COCKEYSVILLE
Scale: 1:24,000

BA-1811
Harmon House
123 Church Lane
Cockeysville
Baltimore County



WARREN 0.5 MI

4370

4369

27°30'

4368

4367

5662 INE

TOWSON (COURTHOUSE) 3.1 MI.

BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 9.1 MI.

0.5 MI. TO MD. 45



BA-1811

HARMON HOUSE

123 CHURCH LANE, COCKEYSVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST CORNER, CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST



BA-1811

HARMON HOUSE

123 CHURCH LANE, COCKEYSVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER, CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

123 Church Lane

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

123 Church Lane

CITY, TOWN

Texas

VICINITY OF

Cockeysville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY
Baltimore**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Stewart Harmon

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

123 Church Lane

Maryland

CITY, TOWN

Texas

VICINITY OF

Cockeysville

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 1956

Folio #: 54

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Towson, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1811

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house, located on 123 Church Lane is a two stories high rectangular framehouse with cross gabled roof. The house is resting on a stone foundation and is covered with chestnut shingles.

The front or south facade is three bays wide on the first floor with two 1/1 double hung windows with louver shutters and a central door. The second floor is also three bays wide with three 1/1 double hung windows with louver shutters. The cross gable roof on this facade contains a gable dormer and has two brick inside chimneys on each side.

This facade also contains a three bays wide porch supported by four wooden columns. This columns provide also the support for the x shaped wooden railings. The porch is roofed by aluminum shaders.

The west facade is two bays wide on both floors with two 1/1 double hung windows. On the northwest corner of this side there is a bulk head cellar door that leads into the cellar.

There is no fenestration on the east side.

The south Facade is onebay wide with a garage door. This garage is an addition to the house as evidenced by the door that leads into to the kitchen as it used to be a window. Before being a garage it used to be an open side porch, which was closed by the present owner in 1951.

Mr. Harmon has also added a concrete block shed on the backyard of this south facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		(streetscape)	

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This dwelling is important because it represents one of Maryland's typical construction techniques of the rural areas, the framhouse.

Besides the above mentioned reason, it is also important because it is part of the nineteenth century streetscape of this village of Texas.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary A. Targa

December 8, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Goucher College

DATE

825-3300

STREET & NUMBER

Towson, Maryland

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1. Robert H. Bussey et al
to
Stewart M. Harmon

March 17, 1951

2. Ralph C. Talbott trustee
to
Katherine McInae Bussey

September 11, 1933

